



At least 40 dead in Bogota blast

BOGOTA (AP) — A truckbomb exploded during rush hour Wednesday morning in downtown Bogota, killing or injuring hundreds of people, destroying several cars and damaging the federal police headquarters, officials said. The Colombian radio network EBCN, quoting police sources and others with hospitals and clinics in the area, said 40 people had been killed. Health Minister Edmundo Diaz told the Caracol radio network that 259 people had been injured seriously and 700 received minor wounds in the blast, which took a large crater in the street and left mounds of rubble. No one immediately claimed responsibility, but suspicion fell on drug traffickers who have bombed the nation's cities repeatedly in an effort to stop the government from extraditing criminals wanted by the United States. The truck, rigged with dynamite, exploded at 7:20 a.m. (12:30 GMT) in front of the headquarters of the department of national security, Colombia's federal investigations police, the report said. The explosion occurred less than 24 hours after the government said a bomb placed aboard a Colombian airliner had caused it to crash shortly after takeoff from Bogota last month, killing all 107 people aboard (see page 5).

A November 10, 1989, newspaper clipping from the Jordan Times is shown.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

Arabs not to press PLO resolution

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Arab group at the United Nations decided Wednesday not to press for a vote on a resolution upgrading the Palestine Liberation Organization's U.N. status, which drew a United States threat to withhold its support to the assembly. "We have decided to accept the appeal of the president of the General Assembly and the other friends in the assembly and not to insist on a vote on the resolution," Libyan U.N. envoy Ali Treki said after attending a meeting of Arab ambassadors. Assembly President Joseph Garba of Nigeria issued a press statement Tuesday urging the sponsors of the draft not to demand a vote. His statement was also critical of the United States for threatening to withhold its 25 per cent share of the U.N.'s \$350-million a year budget if the PLO delegation were upgraded from an observer organization to an observer state, like Switzerland or the Vatican. Treki said the resolution would not be formally withdrawn. He also said the Arab group would issue a statement expressing its commitment to the Palestinian cause and deplored the U.S. stand. Statements were also expected to be made later by representatives of various groups in the assembly when a formal announcement was made that no action would be taken on the resolution.

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Wednesday

announced a 24-member Cabinet, separating three ministries and merging four ministries into two, and retaining six ministers from the government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

The Cabinet, which includes 10 serving members of the Lower House of Parliament, was sworn in front of His Majesty King Hussein at the Royal Palace Wednesday evening.

In addition to the six serving ministers, the Cabinet includes at least three others who have served in former governments and several technocrats as well as liberal/moderate "Islamists."

Badran retained Salem Massadeh as deputy prime minister and minister of interior, Marwan Al Qasem as deputy prime minister and foreign minister and Basel Jardaneh as finance minister.

Ibrahim Izzedine, minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs under Sharif Zeid, was moved to the Ministry of Information; Ibrahim Ayoub, minister of supply, was named minister of transport

and telecommunications, and Planning Minister Ziad Fariz was appointed minister of trade and industry.

Among former ministers in the Cabinet are: Abdul Ra'ouf

Following is the list of the new cabinet:

Mudar Badran — Prime Minister and Defence Minister
Salem Massadeh — Interior
(Deputy Prime Minister)
Marwan Al Qasem — Foreign Affairs
(Deputy Prime Minister)
Abdul Majid Shreideh — Social Development
Mohammed Addeob Al Zaben — Health
Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh — Public Works and Housing
Ibrahim Ayoub — Telecommunications and Transport
Awni Al Masi — Planning
Ibrahim Izzedine — Information
Basel Jardaneh — Finance
Ziad Fariz — Industry and Trade
Abdul Baqi Gammo — Parliamentary Affairs
(Minister of State)
Mohammed Hamdan — Education and Higher Education
Daoud Khalaf — Water and Irrigation
Nabil Abu Huda — Supply
Yousef Mbeideen — Justice
Tabet Al Taher — Energy and Mineral Resources
Suleiman Arabyat — Agriculture
Khaled Al Karaki — Culture
Ali Fagir — Awqaf and Islamic Affairs
Qaseem Obaidat — Labour
Ibrahim Ghahabdeh — Youth
Abdul Karim Kababri — Tourism and Antiquities
Abdul Karim Al Dughami — Municipal Affairs and the Environment

Rawabdeh, a Lower House member who has served as minister of health and mayor of Amman in previous governments, was appointed minister of public works and housing; Awni Al Masi, a former public works minister, was named minister of planning to succeed Fariz; Mohammed Addeob Al Zaben, a former telecommunications minister and currently a member of the Lower House, was assigned to head the Ministry of Health.

Among other Lower House members in the Cabinet are: Yousef Mbeideen (Karak) handling the justice portfolio; Ibrahim Ghahabdeh (Tafilah) heading the Ministry of Youth; Abdul Baqi Gammo (Zarqa) as minister of state for parliamentary affairs; Abdul Karim Dughami (Mafrar) as minister of municipal affairs and the environment; Abdul Karim Kababri (Aqaba) as minister of tourism and antiquities; Abdul Majid Shreideh (Irbid) to head the Ministry of Social Development which was separated from the Ministry of Labour; Qaseem Obaidat (Irbid) as minister of labour; Ali Fagir (Amman) as minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs.

None of the ministers is from the Muslim Brotherhood, which claims 21 seats in the Lower House of Parliament.

Sharif Zeid

King Hussein Wednesday appointed outgoing Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker as chief of the Royal Court and special advisor on armed forces affairs.

The King paid tribute to Sharif Zeid's honesty and described him as a man who is "ready to offer sacrifices at all times." He praised the ex-prime minister's efforts and services to the country over the past months.

"Your letter of designation will serve as a guideline for the government which will cooperate fully with the legislative authorities in order to carry out its task," Badran said in a reply message to the King.

The government hopes to translate the King's directives

into programmes in the process of discharging its duties and win the support of the King and the citizens, Badran said.

The government will give priority to the economic situation,

will carry out economic reform programmes, seek an increase in production and promote marketing of national products,

Arab Revolt, maintain a policy of moderation and remain committed to the principles of the Arab League and the Non-Aligned Movement.

The government will ensure democratic freedoms, bolster the strength of the law and ensure responsible freedoms, support and strengthen the armed and security forces to safeguard the Arab Order, he said.

The government will be committed to Arab causes and support the Palestinian people's right; it will be committed to the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab League, the prime minister said.

New Cabinet sworn in

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Lower House elects panels

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Heavy lobbying and

driven-out voting and revoting procedures characterized the third regular session of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday as the four permanent parliamentary committees were formed at the end of a seven-hour meeting.

House Speaker Suleiman Arar

told deputies to "please allow the Parliament to function in the most practical way possible" after two hours were spent voting for would-be-members of one of the four permanent committees. At 4 o'clock the 78 attending deputies unanimously agreed to divide the 80 parliamentarians among the four committees equally. So that each deputy would be able to serve on one permanent committee. The deputies had taken a vote at the beginning of Wednesday's session to put a limit to the number of members on each committee to 20.

Deputy Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and Thobyan Hindawi said they had no desire to serve on any one of the permanent committees and were thus excluded from the formation of the committees.

Arar, as speaker, also excluded himself from committee membership.

The four permanent committees are financial, legal, administrative, and external or foreign affairs.

Speakers for each committee are expected to be elected in Sunday's session of the House.

The committee members are as follows:

Legal committee — Majed Khatib, Abdul Muneem Abu Zant,

Fadi Nabulsi, Mohammad Abu Fadi Ahmad Al Kohfi, Abdul Latif Arabyat, Ibrahim Kheisat, Mohammad Faris Tarawneh, Kamel Al Omari, Ateef Al Bataish, Yousef Al Mubadeen, Nayef Abu Tayeh, Mohammad Al Muwarr, Abdul Karim Al Dughami, Nayef Minwar Al Hadid, Husein Minjali, Hisham Al Sharari, Salim Al Zabi, Hamad Saeed and Abdul

Suleiman.

The financial committee is headed by

Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh and

Thobyan Hindawi.

The administrative committee is

headed by Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

The external committee is headed by

Abdul Karim Kababri.

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Queen Noor attends Jordanian fashion show

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a new scheme initiated by Queen Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), and instigated by Her Majesty Queen Noor's interest to develop a Jordanian "Haute Couture" industry with a view to encouraging Jordanian products and limiting the country's need of imported clothes, a collection of locally designed and manufactured garments were shown at the Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental Wednesday.

The collection included women's classical wear and a

variety of outfits for children between the ages 8 to 10 in what could be a pilot project to set in motion a local high fashion garments industry.

The function, attended by Her Majesty Queen Noor, was accompanied by a performance of classical Arabic music played by children of the National Music Conservatory to celebrate His Majesty King Hussein's Birthday.

Proceeds of the show, which was organised by the management of the hotel, will go to support the NHF projects.



Society gets new equipment

AMMAN — AJ Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the Physically Handicapped Monday received physiotherapy equipment, donated by the British embassy in Amman to help the society provide physiotherapy services to the physically handicapped. Receiving the gift from the British ambassador to Jordan was Her Highness Princess Majda (Petra photo)

'Best new bluegrass band in America' visits Jordan

AMMAN (USIS) — Musical instruments are nothing new for the members of Union Station, a four-member bluegrass ensemble led by 18-year-old Alison Krauss. Everyone in the group, named the "best new bluegrass band in America" in 1986, has travelled and played throughout the United States.

Now their horizons are expanding, as they leave North America for the first time and undertake a Middle East tour for the United States Information Agency.

The group's tour includes stops in Pakistan, Syria, and Tunisia as well as in Jordan. Union Station will give three public performances, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, during its December visit to Jordan.

The group will perform at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman, Friday, Dec. 8; at Yarmouk University Sunday, Dec. 10 and at the Salt Cultural Centre Monday, Dec. 11.

The group will also give a presentation on bluegrass music to students of the National Music Conservatory, Saturday, Dec. 9. Proceeds from the group's pub-

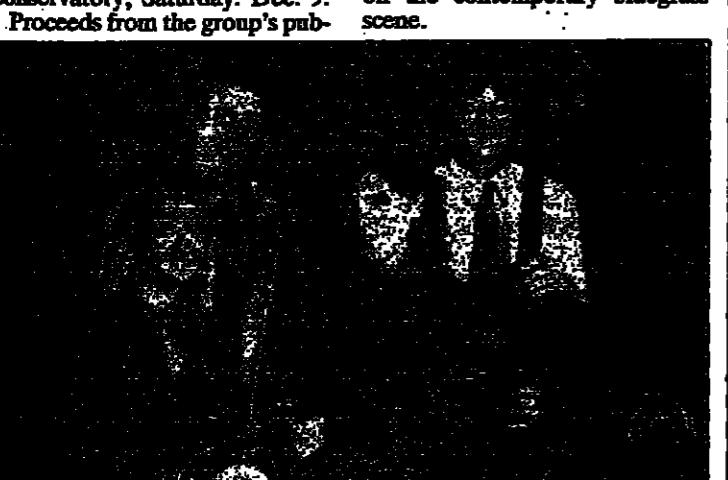
lic concerts will be used for the benefit of member charities of the General Union of Voluntary Societies.

Although not yet out of her teens, Union Station leader Alison Krauss has been hailed as one of the most accomplished and promising bluegrass musicians in the U.S. She began her musical studies at the age of 5, with classical violin.

Her teachers introduced her to bluegrass — a lively style of country music marked by complex and improvised solos played on string instruments — as a way of encouraging her to practice.

Krauss responded with enthusiasm and talent that surpassed anyone's expectations, and before long she was taking breaks from school to perform and compete in fiddle (bluegrass violin) contests, both in her home state of Illinois and elsewhere in the United States.

Her first solo album, recorded when she was fifteen, firmly established Krauss as a master instrumentalist, as well as one of the outstanding female vocalists on the contemporary bluegrass scene.



Alison Krauss (second from right) and the three other members of Union Station

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- * An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasil Gallery, Petra Hotel.
- * An art exhibition by Ghassan Al Husni, Abd Alwan and Abdallah Nawfalik at the Jordanian Public Artists Association, Amman.
- * An art exhibition of water colours by Jordan artist Ahmad Ismael at the Gallery, Hotel Jordans Inter-Continental.
- * An exhibition organised by the Goethe Institute entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid.
- * A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An exhibition which includes publications on the Palestinian issue at the Yarmouk University.
- * A photographic exhibition, held on the 150th anniversary of the invention of photography, by Karine and Demitrev at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- * A photography exhibition on French poet de Prevert at the French Cultural Centre.

CONCERT

- * A concert by the YWCA's troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

FILM

- * A Soviet film entitled The Fountain at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

Prince Hassan opens seminar on development, environment

Crown Prince blames Israeli practices for draining Arab resources

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday said that the Israeli practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories had not only reflected negatively on the life of the Palestinian citizens and the Arab resources in the occupied territories but also on the neighbouring Arab countries.

Addressing the opening session of a two-day seminar on development and environment, Prince Hassan said the Arab-Israeli conflict has borne the Arab countries new responsibilities for addressing environmental problems, thus jeopardising the quality of life and even survival itself.

In his opening speech, Prince Hassan stressed that the challenge facing the development and the environment was posed by the international community itself.

Prince Hassan added that the population explosion, which took the form of forcible immigration, had affected the environment in a number of the region's countries. The effects of such forcible

immigration, caused by the Israeli practices, is still visible in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where hundreds of thousands of people were evicted from their land and took refuge in the neighbouring Arab countries.

"The disputes in the Middle East, just like any international dispute, drain large amounts of money, which are being used for financing procurement of weapons, which have undermined development achievements," the Crown Prince noted.

Prince Hassan pointed out that the West blames the responsibility for the environment degradation on the developing world, accusing it of overexploitation of resources, while the fact is contrary to that.

"It is the Western world which is to blame for the environmental pollution because of its overexploitation of these resources for carrying out nuclear tests, achieving industrial and technological advances and draining of the va-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday opens a 2-day seminar on development and environment in Amman (Petra photo)

minister of international cooperation, and the director of Stockholm Institute of Environment.

Taking part in the seminar are a number of experts and representatives from Arab and foreign countries, in addition to Arab and international organisations.

The conference is organised by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Stockholm Institute of Environment, the Arab Thought Forum and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development.

He praised the global efforts being made to prevent environmental degradation caused by the overuse of natural resources.

Addressing the session were also the director of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Egyptian



Lawzi receives Saudi, Spanish envoys

AMMAN — Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi Wednesday received Saudi Ambassador to Jordan Fahd Al Issa who congratulated him on his appointment as speaker and wished him continued success. Lawzi also received the Spanish ambassador's congratulations during a separate meeting.

Lawzi Wednesday received a congratulatory cable from Secretary General of the Parliament

of the Arab League, Abd El Rahman Bourani on his appointment as speaker. In his cable, Bourani praised the efforts Lawzi exerted in entrenching Arab parliamentary action and wished him success. The speaker Monday received a cable from the South Yemeni President Haider Abu Bakr Al Attas, thanking him for his congratulatory cable on the declaration of the unity between both North and South Yemen. (Petra photo)

Jordan to attend ALECSO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the five-day conference of the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO) due to convene in Cairo Saturday.

The conference will discuss the organisation's proposed budget for the year 1990/1991 and the subjects proposed by the member

states for discussion at the ALECSO general meeting.

The conference will also discuss analytical studies and reports on literary and adult education in addition to a number of recommendations made by the educational conferences held in the years 1987 and 1988.

The conferees will elect mem-

Arab ministers praise Palestinian uprising

TUNIS (Petra) — Council of Arab Social Affairs Ministers Monday voiced pride in the Palestinian uprising and pledged full support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to liberate the occupied territories.

The council also adopted a number of decisions designed to enhance common Arab work in the field of social development and to support the activities of the Arab Fund for Social Work.

The decisions also addressed issues pertaining to women and children, and called for developing the programmes benefitting the disabled.

At the conclusion of their meetings here, the ministers denounced the Israeli practices against Arab citizens in the occupied territories and appealed to their independent state.

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Features

Focus on People

A brain drain

By Mariana M. Shahin

EVERY year for the last thirty or more years, many of the Arab World's best and brightest students have gone abroad to continue their education in "foreign" lands. Once abroad, many students study, work and often settle down in the countries in which they find themselves. The political, social and economic turmoil that much of the Middle East, and indeed most of the developing world, have been going through since the formal end of the colonial age and the beginning of the United Nations age has been among the main reasons why "the native sons" never came home. Although almost all of the students who went abroad to study (meaning mainly Western Europe, North America and in some instances Australia) had the sincere intention of coming back home once their studies were completed and their diplomas acquired, a promise of a better life often lured them to stay where they were.

Not all those who studied in Western Europe and North America can be categorised under the same heading nor can those students who went in the 1930s, 1940s, 1950s, 1960s be compared to those that left in the 1970s or the 1980s. Nor can one compare a Lebanese student who left Beirut in 1978 to England to a Saudi student who left Jeddah for England in the same year. Each case as such may be different. However, certain comparisons can be made.

Questionnaires compiled by certain Arab-American organisations recently indicated that a primary reason for people's decisions to stay where they are is economic.

The exercise found that those who felt that they would have a higher, or equal income and standard of living in their native countries, regardless of the social and political conditions would return home subsequently to finishing their studies.

It is thus easy to see why Arab students from affluent Arab countries returned in high percentages and why those that came from poor Arab countries did not.

Jordan in particular is a special case. Although Jordan was affected by political and economic turmoil on a semi-regular basis in the last 30 years, its social fabric was not as torn apart as many may expect. Despite rapid urbanisation, an ever-growing influx of refugees and deportees from Palestine and a growing number of skilled labourers from Egypt and Asia, Jordan retained a relatively low crime rate, had almost no clashes between groups of different national origins or different religious affiliations and had a steadily increasing GNP.

On an ever increasing level Jordanian families were sending their sons and daughters (initially they had sent almost only boys) to study outside of Jordan. Although the literacy rate in Jordan increased and Jordan now boasts three universities and a dozen community colleges, thousands of students are turned away yearly from the universities because of lack of place for all the applicants.

While thousands of Jordanian students come back to Jordan every year to find jobs in Jordan or in the Arab Gulf countries, many opt to stay abroad. Their skills are often technically advanced, the social and professional positions they secure in their adoptive homes are more than not high up on the white collar and professional ladder. Their wives or husbands are also often equally qualified in a variety of "respectable" professions. The result has been dubbed by the media as the "brain drain."

While they almost always assimilate themselves to become "well adjusted" citizens of a wide variety of countries they almost never forget their origins, whether humble or grand. As one "expatriate" once said, "We are the greatest patriots of all."

While not qualifying such a statement, it is known that "distance makes the heart grow fonder" and for many Jordanians working and living in the mostly Anglo-Saxon West, the Near East remains at least emotionally and psychologically "home."

Dr. Issa Hattar is one Jordanian who left his native city of Salt to continue his higher education "abroad" after completing his Tawjih in 1956. This week Issa Hattar tells Focus on People about his journey to West Germany, how he studied to become a specialised physician, the head of his own clinic, and why he feels comfortable as a citizen of Germany and how after almost 34 of his 51 years he still feels that Jordan is "home."

Although most Arab students chose to study in countries in which the language of their former colonisers was spoken, (at least they knew the language) some chose to study in Spain, Greece, a German-speaking country, a Scandinavian country or less frequently an Eastern European country. Hattar was not really asked where he wanted to study. He was simply awarded a scholarship to study in Munich in West Germany as an honours student in the first graduating class of the Latin Patriarchal School in Amman.

"When they told me I had a scholarship to West Germany I was very happy, I did not think that not knowing the language would be an obstacle. I had heard that the medical schools were very good in Germany and I wanted to study medicine, so for me it was a perfect set-up," Hattar recalls.

Not long after Hattar had found lodgings with a German family and had made Munich his student home, his family sent him a letter that soon one of his three brothers would be joining him to pursue his studies in medicine. So the Hattar family set up a branch in Munich.

Before his many years of study to become a surgeon had been completed the Hattar brothers were joined by their younger sister who also studied medicine. Although many immigrants came to West Germany in the 1960s and 1970s, only a few became involved in the exclusive world of the white collar professionals who, through their professional know-how and subsequent social status, avoided the discrimination that "the immigrant" the world over faces.

"Neither me nor any member of my family or circle of Arab friends was ever made to feel unwelcome. Germans are not particularly warm but they have a profound respect for the learned and that automatically exempted us from ever being the victims of discrimination. In West Germany there is an association of Arab physicians which has several thousand members from the various lands (federal states) in the Federal Republic. Although I am not particularly active at least it allows me to keep in touch with my fellow Arabs whose profession I share," Hattar says.

"Our days are very busy. We usually have a 12 to 14 hour day and Saturday and Sunday off, although we have always to be on standby for emergency cases. So socialising is a selective thing. I see my brother and sister a lot, who like myself are married to Germans and have children. I see the rest of my family from Jordan about three times a year. I go to Jordan once and my parents come once a year to visit me and my brother and sister and stay for about two months, then one of the remaining five brothers and sisters comes at least once a year. So really sometimes I feel as if I never left home," Hattar says.

Hattar specialised in two areas of medical science, one is surgery and the other is called industrial medicine. Industrial medicine is a "specialisation that I think the Germans invented and that does not exist yet in Jordan as far as I know," Hattar says. "I am the industrial doctor for 12 companies and am completely responsible for the health of their blue and white collar workers. If they are injured or hurt during the working hours or are exposed to chemical or industrial substances while they are working it is for me to find out and to suggest what preventive measures should be taken. Because this field of specialisation has allowed for a tremendous reduction in industrial accidents and illnesses it is not required by law to have an industrial physician supervise all companies in West Germany," Hattar says.

Five years back Hattar and his German wife opened their own private day clinic in which they perform operations that do not need overnight hospitalisation. Along with 20 nurses, three doctors, Hattar and his wife treat up to 35 patients in a single day.

Asked if he considered coming home to open a clinic in Jordan, Hattar smiles and explains that his clinic is doing well and that it would be inconvenient to return for him at this point. "But there is always a tomorrow," he says.

Amman's art scene thriving with women artists

This is the second part of a two part article on women artists in Jordan.

By Nelly Lame Special to the Jordan Times The Jordan Intercontinental Hotel was the venue Saturday for an exhibition of paintings by art teacher Gulshen Sleem and four of her habitual students. The inauguration ceremony opened by H.H. Princess Wijdan Ali brought in all the who's who of Jordan. They all seemed impressed at seeing realistic paintings including scenes such as seascapes, landscapes, interiors, personages and horses, rendered within the last year of painting.

Nehad Tabba' has come a long way from her early works (covered October 18, 1988 in the Jordan Times). Although she is a grandmother, her works express the freshness of youth as well as her never ending search for the exotic. A bride looking at herself in the mirror with the rendering of lace and other decorative effects. Other subjects she handles are no less exotic "1001 Nights", "Fairy Tale", "Oriental Figure", etc. are all good ground for the decoration and exotic colour that she loves to use.

The teacher, Gulshen comes from Turkey, she had her training in The Washington School of Art and is well travelled. Her Painting "Garden" formed within two coordinated canvases shows her mastery of analogous colour tones. It is full of details although the main volumes are retained. Her students have, understandably, not yet reached this maturity of handling. They claim that she does stop them from the use of details the fact that should make them perceive volumes, whether stable or in motion. But details are abundant in their work. Their use of the high value scale, and their more or less schematic drawing (because of the lack of preparatory sketching), is obviously another reason that leaves their work slightly wanting.

Mae Liss, who started painting only one year ago, is another promising artist, whose portraits show a good understanding of facial anatomy. She displays three portraits, two in oil of herself and her husband Ziad facing each other, and a third in coloured pastels of her son. She attempts to draw animal anatomy, horses in full swing, an ambitious work, definitely not for beginners, but Mae surprises us all with the results.

Iham Ghazouz displays a luminous seascape where the waves beat and break and "foaming runs the billow". Iham has a keen interest in light effects which she often renders beautifully. Her portrait, in pastels, of Her Majesty Queen Noor has caught not only the features but the prancing youth of the active Queen. Her female mountaineer sitting at the edge of a cliff looking away into the distance displays her interest in creating light effects, and in putting both expression and atmosphere in her paintings.

Sana's translucent portraits show a good study of anatomy and a mature use of volumes. Her work is touched with a sense of sweetness and lyrical spirituality. In some portraits there is a very good attempt at drapery with beautiful transparencies in vivid light colours; this healthy rendering is unfortunately not constant in her work, for in other works it is simply hinted at and leaves some areas unfinished and negligently so. She has great potential if she takes the time to work.

Every artist mentioned here has made at least one good work of art showing good potential. It would be sad if art was taken lightly, as a hobby and pastime.

Art should be given serious aesthetic thought as well as strenuous hard work in preparatory sketches and compositional balancing, especially where figurative work is concerned. Remember that only where there is aesthetic balance and harmony is a painting called a work of art.

My personal feeling is that artists, especially beginners and new graduates, should take time to grow, to assimilate, and to learn before starting to exhibit their creations. But we should all take into consideration that art is a very expensive luxury, consuming both time and money. It is for this reason that amateurs with some talent risk to exhibit and to sell. The proceeds could help them continue the great battle of creativity, and that would be worthwhile if they are willing to learn.



H.H. Princess Wijdan Ali with the lady artists

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Jordan Times'
JORDAN MARKET PLACE

S. Yemen marches down perestroika route

ADEN (R) — Impoverished South Yemen, ruled by a Soviet-style party since independence from Britain 22 years ago, has started down President Gorbachev's perestroika road of economic liberalisation.

A rigid planned economy has failed to lift it from the ranks of the poorest of the world's poor but its government has in the last few months taken cautious yet dramatic steps to free its economy from state control.

More are promised.

"Mistakes have been made," said Minister of Planning Fahmed Mohammad told Reuters. "We are trying to correct those mistakes."

South Yemen, unlike its neighbours on the Arabian Peninsula, exports no oil and has an annual per capita income of around \$500.

On Dec. 1 it signed a unity agreement with its free-wheeling neighbour North Yemen which

envises an eventual merger of the two states.

In a landmark decision last week the government approved the construction of the country's first private sector hotel. The three-star establishment is in Abyan province west of Aden to be built by a Yemeni businessman working in the Gulf.

Other businessmen are building bakeries, a chicken farm and small factories. Output will not be subject to government price controls in most situations, said Mohammad.

The new policy is a major departure for the government, which in the early 1970s brought most of the country's farms under the control of state cooperatives

or took them over directly. Aden, the Arab World's only doctrinaire Marxist state, has also nationalised apartment blocks, banks and most industry.

But now the government is debating the final details of a new investment law that will allow foreigners to own local ventures.

The law, expected to be enacted within three months, will give projects of more than 50,000 dinars (\$145,000 at the official exchange rate) breaks and tariff exemptions for three to six years.

Mohammad said the government plans to hand over parts of its retail trade to the private sector, especially in agricultural produce and fish.

Diplomats say the economy has been fragile for some time, but was thrown into crisis in the last year by sharp reductions in aid from the Soviet Union and East Germany and a more than 50 per cent drop in remittances from Yemenis working in the Gulf.

However, Yemeni officials warn that they must act quickly to attract funds because younger merchants born in Saudi Arabia have few of their parents' emotional ties to Yemen.

Mohammad said the government was trying to attract investment in oil, tourism and the port of Aden.

The country recently began

Many basic commodities have disappeared from shop shelves.

Diplomats compare Aden's plight with that of East Germany. The lure of jobs in neighbouring capitalist countries where the same language is spoken has continually drained their best brains and sapped their economies.

At the same time, there is the promise of a large inflow of investments from their neighbours if reforms are introduced.

Many of Saudi Arabia's richest merchant families trace their roots back to South Yemen's Hadramaut province.

Aden Port, lying in a strategic position along one of the world's busiest shipping routes, is being upgraded and a free trade zone is planned.

Before any of this occurs, however, the country must get to grips with its stifling bureaucracy, Western businessmen say.

Mohammad said that in spite of the reforms there are no plans to free the dinar, prices 15 to 25 per cent above the black market rate, nor to allow the private sector into the banking sector.

The conference also aims to discuss the financial and accounting problems facing the various economic institutions and assist in finding solutions to them. It also

pumping its first commercial quantities of oil and exploration for more is continuing.

A relaxation of travel restrictions has brought an influx of North Yemenis attracted by the south's relaxed attitude toward drinking alcohol.

Mohammad says visa requirements are to be eased soon for all foreigners to attract tourists to Yemen's spectacular beaches and rich archaeological sites along ancient incense routes.

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Financial conference opens at Yarmouk University Sunday

Emirates, Umm Durman, Muscatine, Mohammad Ben Said, Baghdad, Saladin, Basra, Jerusalem, Open University, Qayoun, Illinois, Glencoe, Yarmouk and the University of Jordan will be taking part in the conference.

Representatives from the Finance Ministry of Iraq, the Royal Scientific Society, the Audit Commission, the Social Security Corporation and the Arab, Jordan National and Jordan-Kuwait banks will also take part.

A number of experts and professors from the Council of Arab Economic Unity, Arab Banks Union, and the universities of Alexandria, the United Arab

Libya to give private sector greater role

years have hit the economy.

The document, a rare insight into government economic planning, says, "these initiatives should be considered the start of a gradual process that will be deepened and developed in the light of evolving circumstances."

In line with Qadhafi's theories, the only workers in private companies must be family members of partners and not slaves.

"The intention is to expand gradually the role of individuals and cooperatives in the economy," a confidential official document made available to Reuters said.

It indicates the authorities will not allow private businesses to grow into capitalist-style companies where the workers receive wages and the owners reap the profits.

But foreign economists say the proposed measures would boost the private sector and follow encouraging early results of an economic liberalisation programme launched in 1988.

To stimulate the private sector and ease balance of payments pressures, foreign consultants have urged the government to devalue the dinar to boost exports, raise interest rates to encourage savings and end fixed retail prices.

Libya's current account balance deteriorated in 1988 to a deficit of \$2.3 billion from \$1 billion in 1987, partly because the liberalisation released pent-up demand for all imports not previously available.

The consultants argued that devaluation would encourage non-oil exports and cut imports to the employees under the "partners, not wage slaves" scheme.

Libya depends heavily on oil but lower world prices in recent

years have hit the economy.

The next stage of the liberalisation will come when the government allows private companies and partnerships to import directly most types of goods.

"Eventually public and private entities will share import activities equally," the document says. At the moment the public sector dominates.

The government plans to cut its budget deficit by phasing out all subsidies on foodstuffs such as wheat, flour, sugar, tea and salt but controls on prices and on exchange and interest rates will not be eased in the near future, the document said.

After years of strict control of all businesses except small farms and private artisans, the government last year allowed private shops to reopen and began to encourage small, private enterprises in the services and manufacturing sectors.

Ownership of some state-owned factories has been transferred to the employees under the "partners, not wage slaves" scheme.

Libya depends heavily on oil but lower world prices in recent

Manila pumps money to meet high demand

MANILA (R) — Queues formed outside banks in Manila and government planes flew banknotes to provincial towns to meet the demands of jittery Filipinos for extra cash in the tense stand-off following a failed coup.

Central bank Governor Jose Fernandez said Wednesday the government had released two billions pesos (\$90 million) into the banking system to meet heavy withdrawals, but he denied there was a bank run.

"It is a normal human response... it's not a loss of confidence," Fernandez said. "People want to have a large amount of cash in a situation like this — a little more cash because people are uncertain."

There have been long queues outside banks in Manila Tuesday and Wednesday, with people jostling for space and spilling onto the streets.

Government planes flew banknotes to provincial towns where

shortages were reported, officials said.

Fernandez said the government was prepared to handle any temporary shortage of cash.

The level of money poured into the banking system since banks reopened Monday is the highest the government has ever released in an emergency situation. It released one billion pesos (\$45 million) in the aftermath of the August 1987 coup attempt.

CAEU opens talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Libyan secretary-general of the economy and foreign trade people's committee, Dr. Farhat Saleh Sharannah, has called for defining spheres of coordination between the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) and various Arab economic groupings, and to develop channels of contact and means to exchange expertise in order to attain objectives related to comprehensive Arab economic unity.

Addressing the opening session of the Amman-based CEAU Wednesday, Sharannah called for enabling the Arab Cooperation Council, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Arab Maghreb Union to perform their duties by cementing coordination bases and ensure the best methods for

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Seminar to highlight Japanese industry

AMMAN (Petra) — Directors and chairman of the board of directors of a number of economic institutions will participate in a specialised seminar on Japanese industrial administration, the strategy of managing small and medium size industries, as well as means to promote the standard of productivity in factories. The seminar, to convene Saturday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the Amman Chamber of Industry, will enable the participants to meet experts in the Japanese industry and get detailed information about the methods of mapping out production and administrative policies, and to promote productivity using the necessary expertise. The seminar is organised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology in cooperation with the Ministry of Planning, the Amman Chamber of Industry, and the Japanese Centre for Cooperation with the Middle Eastern Countries.

Moroccan foreign debt totals \$20b

KUWAIT (R) — Moroccan Finance Minister Mohammad Berrada said his country owes \$20 billion in foreign debt. Berrada, speaking to Kuwaiti business men at an economic seminar, said Morocco was considering privatising about 100 government firms. The Moroccan minister flew to Kuwait from Saudi Arabia where he signed an agreement to set up a \$47-million joint investment company. Berrada said a 20 per cent stake had been set aside for Arab investors in the planned privatisation programme which would include 30 hotels and 12 factories.

Pakistan gets \$50m Arab loan

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Gulf International Bank (GIB), a Bahrain-based institution owned by the seven Arab states of the Gulf, has arranged a \$30 million loan to finance Pakistan's rice exports. The one-year loan, signed in Karachi, carries an annual interest of three-quarters of a percentage point over the London Inter Bank Offered Rate, an announcement said. The borrower is the Rice Export Corp. of Pakistan and the loan is guaranteed by the State Bank of Pakistan, GIB said. The loan's lead managers are GIB and Commercial Bank of Kuwait, as well as Habib Bank Ltd. and the Arab Banking Corp. which are also based in Bahrain.

West to develop East cellular phones

BUDAPEST (R) — A U.S. firm is to set up a joint venture in Hungary to own and operate the first national cellular phone system in Eastern Europe. Information and telecommunications group U.S. West Inc. has signed an agreement with the Hungarian post office to create Hungarian Cellular Communications Inc., with initial capital of around \$10 million. U.S. West will hold 49 per cent in the venture, and Hungary's Postal Authority 51 per cent. Hungary has only 1.7 million telephone lines for a population of 10.6 million. It recently launched a programme to give the country three million lines by the end of the century.

Kuwait Airways plans route extensions

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Kuwait Airways is negotiating with Singapore, Australia and Indonesia to fly to those countries, its chairman has said. After opening its sales office here, chairman Ahmad Hamad Al Mishari told reporters that Kuwait Airways, which began service Sunday to Malaysia via Bangkok, might extend that weekly flight to Singapore, Indonesia and Australia. "Our operations in South East Asia contribute about 8.0 per cent to annual sales," he said, adding that this would increase as Kuwait Airways has signed a commercial agreement on sale of seats with Malaysia Airlines. The agreement was signed Monday by Ghazi Al Mishari, Kuwait Airways' commercial affairs director, and Baharuddin Haji Nordin, MAS' director of marketing and sales. Ahmad said Kuwait Airways was studying buying more aircraft as the airline wanted to replace its existing four Boeing 747-200 Jumbo jets with the latest Boeing 747-400. Ahmad said the company also was negotiating to purchase Boeing 757 and 767 aircraft.

Somalia-Kenya row turns economic

MOGADISHU (R) — Somalia has warned it would cut its trade with Kenya unless Nairobi discontinued its controversial screening of all Somalis in the country. "If Kenya pursues its current hostile and discriminatory attitude against ethnic Somalis as a whole, trade between the two countries is virtually impossible," Commerce Minister Abdikasim Salad Hassan told a news conference in Mogadishu. "The Somali government will not tolerate the Kenyan government's conduct of singling out and discriminating against people of Somali origin for its domestic ills," he added, but declined to elaborate. Official figures show Somalia imports about 80 per cent of its consumer goods, such as soap, tea, cigarettes and potatoes from Kenya, to which it exports mainly livestock and some salt. Somalia told Kenyan authorities last week the screening of Somalis, launched in early November, could harm relations between the two east African states. The screening requires all ethnic Somalis over 18 years to prove they are in Kenya legally.

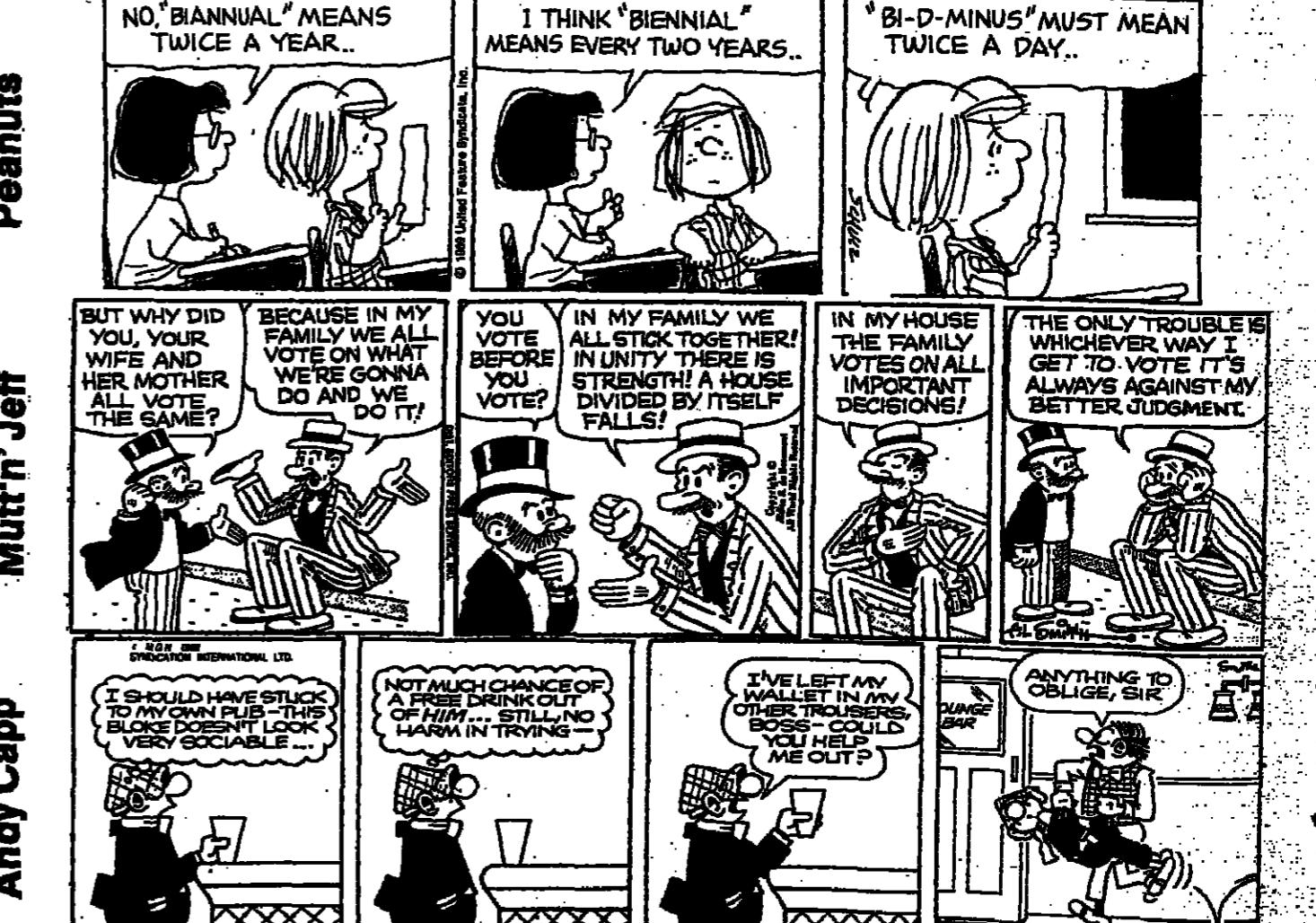
Soviet food prices increase

MOSCOW (R) — Food prices in the Soviet Union rose by an average of more than three per cent in the first half of the year. The figures suggested the real rate of inflation could be higher than officially admitted. The Communist Party daily Pravda said that food prices in cities rose by three per cent while those in the countryside rose by four per cent for the six months to June. In the Russian Federation, by far the largest of the country's 15 constituent republics, food prices rose by six per cent and non-food prices climbed by 11 per cent in the same six-month period. The Soviet Union does not issue regular inflation figures. In October, a state statistics committee official said the inflation rate for the first nine months of the year was 2.6 per cent. Radical economists put it at closer to six per cent.

Real estate deals up Jordan's income

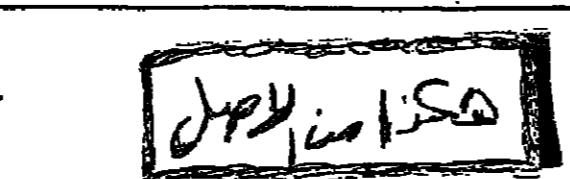
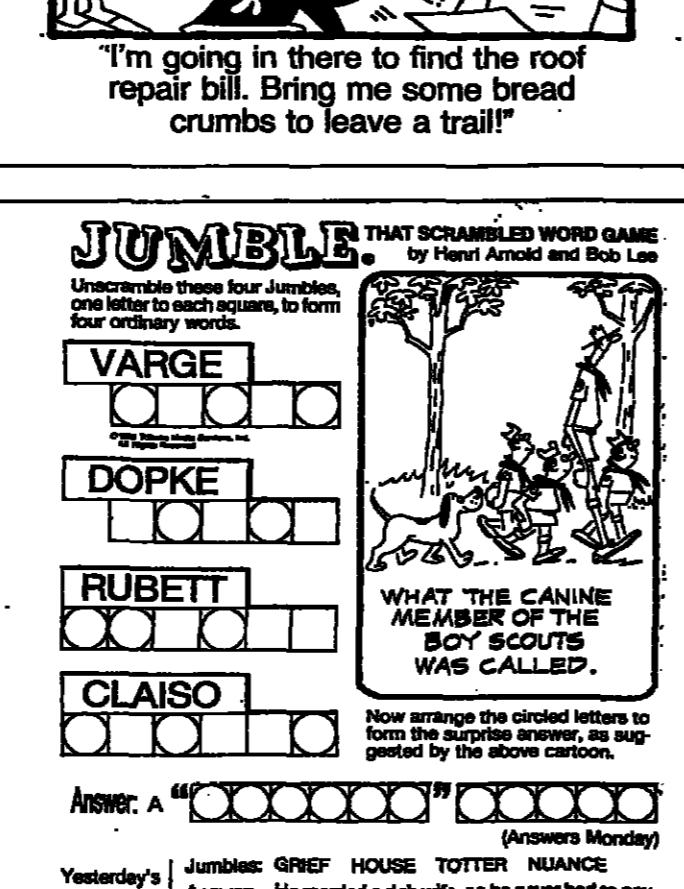
AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Lands and Survey collected fees amounting to JD 1.996 million during October of 1989, compared to JD 1.736 million in the same month of last year. The fees were charged on buying and selling real estate in the country. According to a department statement last September, its revenue from such fees amounted to JD 2.568 million compared to JD 1.575 million in September 1988.

Peanuts



Andy Capp

Jumble



Tory challengers fire a warning shot at Thatcher

LONDON (Agencies) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has brushed off the first challenge to her 14-year leadership of Britain's ruling Conservatives but party rebels have fired a significant first warning shot.

In a secret ballot of Conservative members of parliament Tuesday, Thatcher won 314 out of 374 available votes, against just 33 for her junior colleague Sir Anthony Meyer.

But Meyer's tally, together with 24 abstentions and three unused votes, added up to an effective anti-Thatcher bloc of 60, nearly a sixth of the parliamentary party.

Thatcher appeared briefly outside her Downing Street residence to express satisfaction with her "overwhelming support". Conservative Party Chairman Kenneth Baker said she was now secure as leader until the next election, due by 1992.

"What the Conservative Party has decided today is that they want Margaret Thatcher to lead them into the 1990s and into the next general election," he told a television interviewer.

Thatcher supporters cheered and banged their desks on hearing the ballot result and the largely pro-Thatcher tabloid press was jubilant. "The unqualified message is: carry on, Maggie" said the Sun.

But other commentators saw the vote as a sign that Thatcher, the "iron lady" who has dominated British politics throughout the 1980s, is no longer invulnerable.

"There is a question mark

floating today above the prime minister which wasn't there a week ago...this is a more vulnerable prime minister than we have seen since the days of her Falklands triumph," said the liberal Guardian, referring to the 1982 war with Argentina.

"Less than a vote of full confidence, but less also than a notice to quit...it is a mandate to continue, not much more than that," wrote columnist Peter Jenkins in the Independent.

Meyer, a white-haired ex-diplomat and hereditary knight, never hoped to win more votes than Thatcher, leader since 1975.

But his eccentric and largely symbolic challenge provided a focus for discontent with her impulsive leadership style and her confrontational stand over issues such as European Community (EC) integration.

But the Times of London, which generally supports her, wrote: "Mrs. Thatcher can be satisfied...the total of 60 who did not support her constitutes little more than the widely predicted bedrock of dissident feeling — European extremists, disgruntled ex-ministers and others with a grievance of some sort."

Political analysts say the way may now be open for a serious challenge next year from a heavyweight leadership contender.

Thatcher government policies are blamed for an annual inflation rate of 7.3 per cent, a falling pound and 15-per cent interest rates.

Ordinarily, support by 85 per cent of the majority party would have been regarded as an unassailable vote of confidence. But

Bomb caused plane crash

with 107, Colombia says

BOGOTA (Agencies) — An Avianca airliner that blew up with 107 people aboard last month was destroyed by a bomb placed in a seat near the fuel tanks, according to a Colombian cabinet minister.

All members of a crash investigation team agreed that the Boeing 727 was destroyed by a bomb, Minister of Government Carlos Lemos Simmonds told a news conference late Tuesday.

Lemos did not say who may have placed the bomb. But suspicion has fallen on drug traffickers who have bombed schools, hotels, restaurants and other public buildings since the government began an anti-narcotics crackdown last August.

Before the airliner was bombed, 201 bombs had exploded over the previous three months in major Colombian cities, killing 29 people and injuring 238.

Earlier, Lemos had suggested that drug traffickers were responsible for the Nov. 27 crash that killed all those aboard.

Authorities have said they believe the bombings are intended to pressure an end to extradition of drug suspects to the United States. Nine extraditions have taken place since August.

Colombia's house of representatives voted two hours after the release of the crash report to kill a proposal for a national referendum on the government's extradition policy, the radio network Caracol said.

A congressional committee had introduced the proposal on Dec. 1, maintaining that Colombians

should have the opportunity to decide if the policy should continue.

Traffickers had said in a message to a congressional leader that they were declaring a temporary truce in their terrorist campaign because they were confident that the congress would approve the extradition re-enforcement.

The jet exploded minutes after taking off from Bogota's international airport on its way to the city of Cali.

A man had called the Caracol radio network and claimed responsibility for the crash on behalf of the Extradicables, a terrorist group linked to the Medellin cocaine cartel.

The man said the group destroyed the plane in retaliation for a police raid on the hideout of Pablo Escobar, a leader of the Medellin cartel, five days earlier. Police said that they almost caught Escobar, who fled into the jungle while his bodyguards battled 300 police and army troops. Caracol later said it doubted the caller's authenticity.

A Colombian judge probing Medellin drug cartel activity was shot to death Tuesday as he was walking home to lunch here, police said.

Bernardo Jaramillo, 46, died in machinegun fire sprayed by men in two vehicles as he was crossing a major intersection in an upper-middle-class neighbourhood in western Medellin.

He was the fourth judge to be assassinated in the past five months in Medellin, the hub of Colombia's cocaine trade.

Aquino declares emergency

MANILA (Agencies) — President Corazon Aquino declared a state of emergency Wednesday and pleaded for support against mutineers trying to overthrow her government.

"I am telling you now that I have put so much at stake for democracy. I have lost my band," said Wednesday: "Margaret Thatcher's credibility...was dealt a damaging blow...almost one in six of all Tory members of parliament cast an anti-Thatcher vote."

Even the Daily Telegraph, a Conservative supporter, said:

"The result of the Conservative leadership election is unsatisfactory. If...Thatcher is to lead her party into the next general election (due by mid-1992), it can be in the interests of no one, but the opposition that she should be seriously weakened in the interim."

But the Times of London, which generally supports her, wrote: "Mrs. Thatcher can be satisfied...the total of 60 who did not support her constitutes little more than the widely predicted bedrock of dissident feeling — European extremists, disgruntled ex-ministers and others with a grievance of some sort."

Thatcher ousted former Prime Minister Edward Heath as party leader after the Conservatives under him lost the 1974 general election to Labour. She came to power when the Conservatives won the 1979 general election.

She is now in her third term as prime minister following Tory victories in the 1983 and 1987 general elections. She is the longest serving prime minister this century.

emergency to give her broad powers to cope with the crisis, which started last Friday when thousands of mutinous soldiers launched a coup attempt.

The Philippine media were banned from reporting on loyalist troop movements, and two radio stations that had supported the rebels were closed down.

By late evening some 400 defiant rebels were still holding out in Manila's financial district after earlier allowing the evacuation of 5,000 Filipino civilians and foreigners.

A ceasefire was in effect for most of the day and appeared to be holding.

The rebels, who accuse Aquino of allowing corruption to flourish, agreed to discuss surrender and government negotiators said the talks were going well.

The talks began in the morning

as the civilians, including 1,900 foreigners, were evacuated in a fleet of buses and were expected to go on through the night.

In her emergency proclamation, Aquino said the coup — the sixth since she took office in 1986 amid massive displays of popular support — was causing "serious destabilisation".

"The rebellion has resulted in senseless loss of life, destruction of property and serious social-economic damage," said the 53-year-old widow.

More than 100 people have been killed since the coup began early last Friday, according to government estimates.

President spokesman Adolfo Azcuna told reporters the proclamation would pave the way for the Philippine congress to give Aquino broader emergency powers.

The state of emergency could be used to help control food supplies, he said.

"The emergency powers are needed after prices of food jumped up to 200 to 300 per cent," said Senator Santina Resul.

Officials said the Senate Wednesday started discussing a law granting Aquino additional emergency measures.

Azcuna was emphatic the state of emergency did not amount to martial law. "It is not a military measure, it is a civilian measure very much less than martial law."

Marcos, the president ousted by Aquino and a "people power" revolt, used martial law to prevent challenges to his rule. Marcos, who died in exile last August 1988, was accused of looting billions of dollars in public funds.

Playboy exposure for founder's bride

CHICAGO (R) — Playboy magazine has published a special edition featuring founder Hugh Hefner's new bride spread across 97 pages in various stages of undress. "Just in time for holiday gift giving," said the magazine in announcing the publication. Kimberly Conrad, the 26-year-old blonde from Vancouver, British Columbia, who became the 63-year-old Hefner's wife last June, has had previous Playboy exposure. She was on the cover in August 1988, the same year she was featured as "Miss January."

French train breaks rail speed record

TOURS, France (AP) — An ultra-modern train shattered the world record Tuesday for the highest speed on rails, rocketing along at 490 kilometres per hour, the French National Railroad announced.

Gorbachev told Genscher Tuesday that under the current circumstances of rapid change in Europe and improving relations between East and West, "it is especially important to support international stability and to strengthen security," according to TASS.

The Kremlin is trying to keep up with the bewildering pace of change in East Germany and Shevardnadze's comments show Moscow is determined not to lose all control over the process.

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"This suggests self-restraint, responsibility and deliberation in actions from all states, and loyal cooperation on the basis of generally accepted principles," TASS said, paraphrasing Gorbachev.

At the weekend summit meeting in Malta, Gorbachev told U.S. President George Bush that "reunification gave the Soviet Union some problems that could push it too hard, too fast, could create some real tension," according to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Genscher said at the news conference that he assured Gorbachev, "there is not going to be a separate German course."

He said German rapprochement would occur only within general European rapprochement, and "we will do everything to create stable, cooperative structures" to ensure the security of Europe.

Genscher refused to detail or characterise Gorbachev's response.

The Soviet Union, like some of West Germany's allies, fears a united Germany would dominate Europe economically and politically and has bitter memories of the suffering it endured during World War II.

Soviet people remember well the history, the tragic lessons of World War II," Shevardnadze told Genscher.

'Heaven on Earth'

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Maharsi Mahesh Yogi, founder of transcendental meditation and one-time guru to the Beatles, is proposing a city of immortals somewhere in Oklahoma to start building his vision of heaven on earth. Representatives of the Indian Guru have met with developers in Oklahoma City to discuss plans for a low-density housing community proposed by the Maharishi Heaven on Earth Development Corp. It is one of several such communities planned across the nation, backers said.

Backers said the communities would be "noise-free, pollution-free and free from crime and anxiety." Scott Demarce, a stillwater builder who acts as Oklahoma liaison for the Maiblue, California-based corporation, said it was hoped ground could be broken as early as April next year.

"Our public opinion is highly sensitive to everything that is bears upon its outcome and this should not be forgotten by anyone," he said. The Soviet Union says 20 million of its citizens were killed during the war.

Taiwan president promises reforms

TAIPEI (AP) — President Lee Teng-Hui Wednesday promised to expand democratic reforms after the ruling Nationalist Party's setback in Taiwan's first multi-party election.

In Saturday's general elections, the Nationalist Party suffered its worst losses in 40 years in power. It lost several key local county executive posts in winning 30 per cent of the total vote, down from 70 per cent in 1986.

"It was a setback for our party as far as our original goal was concerned," said Lee, who also chairs the Nationalist Party.

"The decision made by the voters was not a coincidence," Lee told the party's decision-making central standing committee. "It indicates the various reform measures undertaken by the government in recent years had failed to meet the public's expectations."

Opposition supporters, meanwhile, ended four days of demonstrations against alleged vote fraud after the recounting of ballots from one county race began at the heavily guarded Tainan district court in southern Taiwan.

During the election campaign, the opposition party accused the Nationalists of widespread vote buying and ballot box stuffing.

Those allegations were strongest in Taiwan, a largely agricultural county in southern Taiwan, where a Nationalist and an opposition Democratic Progressive Party candidate were in a close race for the county executive post.

Lee said the government had failed to solve such problems as worsening crime, declining social morale and "the authorities' declining credibility". He said these problems would be targeted by new reforms.

"We must learn our lesson from the setback. We must not hesitate any more," Lee said.

"We are more sure of our way and will take faster and more positive steps" towards various political and other reforms.

Singh allocates portfolios to 15-member cabinet

NEW DELHI (AP) — Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh retained the Defence Ministry for himself as he allocated the portfolios for his new cabinet ministers Wednesday, news agencies reported.

The cabinet ministers took their oaths of office Tuesday but their portfolios were not immediately announced, prompting speculation of more internal feuds within a coalition whose main claim to unity was its opposition to ex-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his Congress Party.

The new foreign minister is Indra Kumar Gujral, a former ambassador to Moscow who has been away from politics for nearly a decade. Gujral, 70, served in cabinets headed by Gandhi's mother and predecessor as prime minister, Indira Gandhi. He held several ministerial posts in the late 1960s and early 1970s, including information and broadcasting, housing, planning and parliamentary affairs.

Gujral was India's ambassador to the Soviet Union from 1976 to 1980.

Singh's appointments were released by the presidential palace and reported by United News of India and Press Trust of India.

The key job of minister of home affairs went to a Muslim, Manohar Lal Nehru, whose husband Sanjay crashed and died while stunt-flying a plane in 1980, was named minister of state for environment and forests. She is the only woman and, at age 33, the youngest minister named by Singh so far.

Another estranged relative of the prime minister is Arun Nehru, a cousin of Gandhi's, was named minister of commerce and tourism.

In addition to defence, Singh gave the finance minister his post to Madan Dandavate, a former physics professor who served as railways minister the only other time India had a government that wasn't dominated by the Congress Party — from 1977 through 1979.

Dandavate, 64, is prominent member of Singh's Janata Dal party, the major partner in the National Front coalition that unseated Gandhi in the Nov. 22-26 elections.

Singh's deputy prime minister is Indra Kumar Gujral, a former political boss Devi Lal, 75, was given the additional title of minister of agriculture.

Singh, 58, must submit his government to a vote of confidence in the new parliament. Newspapers, including the Indian Express which is sympathetic to Singh, have suggested the vote could take place Dec. 18 or shortly after.

The cabinet list released Wednesday consisted of 15 ministers. In addition, there were two ministers of state who do not have cabinet rank. One of them was Manohar Lal Nehru.

Mr. Gandhi, whose husband Sanjay crashed and died while stunt-flying a plane in 1980, was named minister of state for water resources.

Le Pen makes a new jibe

Avoiding the protocol difficulties involved in a visit to East Berlin, Kohl will go to Dresden for talks with Prime Minister Hans Modrow, who was party leader in the southern city before he took over the central government a month ago.

The chancellor will presumably also meet East German head of state Egon Krenz, if Krenz retains that post after the emergency Communist party congress scheduled for Dec. 15-16.

He has already resigned his party posts with all his colleagues in the new leadership, compromised in the eyes of the public by their links with the ousted hardliners.

Responsive to a mood of public outrage at the revelations of gross corruption by many of the old leaders, public prosecutors Tuesday put Honecker under arrest in his house on a luxury estate for senior party members, now mostly disgraced. Others of his old cronies are also under house arrest in the Wannsee compound on the edge of Berlin.

Honecker has not been charged but analysts said it seemed likely that he would be indicted for some form of corruption or abuse of office.

Vogel, the man who negotiated such spy swaps as that of American U2 pilot Gary Powers for Soviet master spy Rudolf Abel, was detained on suspicion of criminal blackmail. No details were given.

The last client of the suave lawyer well known in the chancelleries of the West was Alexander Schalck-Golodowski, a top East German foreign trade official who fled the country at the weekend, leaving behind a hornet's nest of shady arms deals.

Stoleru, quizzed on the number of illegal immigrants in France, said he had frequently organised police operations to arrest foreigners without papers.

Le Pen replied: "Why don't you say raids?" using the French word "rafle," which has clear implications of Nazi German raids during the occupation of France.